

REMARKS OF MR. BOYDEN,

OF ROWAN.

UPON CONSCRIPTION AND EXEMPTION.

I hold, Mr. Speaker, that the assumptions of power contained in the acts of conscription, and especially in the last act, are wholly inconsistent with the fundamental principles of our form of government; and if upheld by the legislation and the judiciary of the States, a revolution in our system of government has been accomplished in the two first years of its existence, which converts our association of free sovereign States into one consolidated military despotism, more powerful and more oppressive than any that has existed in Christendom in the last five hundred years. Why, Mr. Speaker, it assumes the right to conscribe and to place in the regular army of the Confederate States, every man in the State of the proper age for bearing arms, no matter what State office he may hold—no matter how essential his office or employment to the very existence of the State; and to send them to distant lands to fight for conquest and dominion; and all this without the consent of the State authorities. It assumes the right to take every State officer, high or low, and the whole militia of the State, to the last man; and that no man, by State authority, can be exempted from this cruel and unrelenting conscription; his only exemption being by the mere grace and favor of the Confederate government. Are these assumptions of power consistent with our system of government? Surely not, Mr. Speaker. It is true this last act of conscription has not actually placed in the regular army every State officer. It has kindly condescended, by implication, to exempt our Governor; and has by express words graciously exempted the members of the Legislature and its officers. It has also exempted ministers of religion, printers of newspapers, physicians, and a few others. But this is of mere grace and favor, not of right in the State. All the rest of the men in the State, including your whole judiciary, it has conscribed and placed, or pretended to place, in the regular army of the Confederate States; and there they must remain, subject to military law, even before enrollment and before they have been actually mustered into service, farther than the act of conscription accomplishes, or supplies the place of enrollment and mustering into service. And it must be borne in mind that every exemption that is made in the act is of pure grace and favor of the Confederate government, and not your acknowledged right in the States to make these exemptions. Can any man maintain such doctrines and not see at once, that instead of a Confederacy of free and independent States, we have established a powerful consolidated military despotism, the most cruel, unrelenting and oppressive, that has existed in Christendom for centuries? It is true, the judiciary and other necessary State officers for the proper administration of the State government, may be exempt, provided the Governor will certify as to their necessity for the proper administration of the State government. But, let us suppose that a difficulty has arisen between this independent and Confederate branch of the State government in relation to the powers of the State Executive, and he refuses to certify, as to their necessity for the proper administration of the State government. What, then, becomes of the judiciary of the State, and of the administration of civil law, and suppose the President, for the same reason is displeased with the judiciary; is there not an end of all State authority, and of all State government? No man can deny it.

For such assumptions of power on the part of the Confederate Government, I for one can never consent, but feel bound to enter my solemn protest against them, as utterly subversive of all State authority and of all State rights.

I hold, Mr. Speaker, that as a State we are not at all dependent upon the grace and favor of the Confederate Government for the exemption of necessary State officers, or for any other exemptions of persons which, in the judgment of the State legislature, may be necessary and indispensable to the healthy and effective operations of the State government. But that it is not only the right, but that it is the imperative duty of the legislature to exempt all constitutional officers of all the separate and independent and co-ordinate branches of the State government, to wit: the Governor, the Judiciary, the members of the Legislature, and also Secretary and Treasurer of State, Comptroller, &c., but likewise all such other persons and employees, as are necessary for a proper administration of the State government. And for one, I am for exercising this authority in passing a bill for that purpose. I would also, until the present crisis is made and secured, exempt every man zealously and laboriously engaged on the farm raising supplies for the army and for the people at home; and also all those persons employed in those mechanical trades, that are indispensable to the farming operations of the State; and if more men are needed I would take every able-bodied man in the State in the conscript department, every able-bodied man in the commissary, quartermaster and all other departments of the government, where it could be done, and I would fill these places with disabled soldiers who are no longer fit for service in the field, but would cheerfully fill these places.

I would, also, send forward the thousand and one red-mouthed original secessionists, which we meet in every town and village and in every railroad car, who made such extravagant promises as to what they would do for the cause, and who are now filling most of the most shady places in the gift of the government. These I would send forward to the army at once, but not another man from the farm until the present crisis is made and secured. Nor should the seed corn be taken, the boys between 17 and 18, nor the old men between 45 and 50 years of age. No sir, and I can assure the Confederate authorities that if they are taken now, many a field of grain will go unreaped, and many a field now planted in corn must be abandoned, and starvation will inevitably overtake many a family. And I verily believe, that if the President and the authorities at Richmond knew our real condition as we know it, they would pursue the very course now recommended, and not another man would be taken from the farm until the present crisis is made and secured. These are my deliberate convictions, and I have felt it my duty to declare in the Senate.

And Mr. Speaker, I have presented these views not with any remotest intent to embarrass the Confederate authorities or to discourage our brave soldiers or their commanders, but with a view to uphold the laws of my country, and strengthen and encourage the government in the exercise of all its rightful powers. This course I believe necessary to our success in the death struggle in which we are now involved.

That the conscription acts in the assumption of power to which I have alluded are unconstitutional, it seems to me no man, in the full possession of his reasoning faculties, can deny. But it has been said in this debate, that the courts in several of the States have already decided these questions as to the constitutionality of the conscription acts. I know of no such decisions, and I trust there never will be any such decisions. No such decision has been made in North Carolina, and I trust never will be made here or elsewhere; but if they should be made, after this war is over, it is my opinion that those who make such a decision will have to mourn over them as the most unfortunate of their judicial career, and the country will regard those who make them as stricken with judicial blindness, caused by the passions

AN INCIDENT OF THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

The Yankees from time to time throw a shell into the city, and nobody seems to mind it. But mistime will tell yesterday a shell should throw the entire community into mourning.

Miss Anna Pickens, the daughter of our former Governor, never consented to leave the city. Despite the representations of Gen. Beauregard, she remained braving shells and Greek fire, attending the wounded and cheering all with her presence. Among the wounded officers under her care was Mr. Andrew de Rochelle, a descendant of one of the noblest Huguenot families of the city. The young man was full of the liveliest gratitude for his fair nurse; gratitude gave birth to a more tender sentiment; his suit was listened to; Gen. Pickens gave his consent, and the marriage was fixed for yesterday, the 23d April.

Lieut. de Rochelle was on duty at Fort Sumter in the morning, and it was determined that the ceremony should take place at the residence of Gen. Beauregard, in the evening, at 7 o'clock. At the moment when the Episcopal clergyman was asking the bride if she was ready, a shell fell upon the roof of the building, penetrated to the room where the company was assembled, burst and wounded nine persons, and among the rest, Miss Anna Pickens. We cannot describe the scene that followed. Order was at last re-established, and the wounded were removed, all except the bride, who lay motionless on the carpet. Her betrothed, kneeling and bending over her, was weeping bitterly and trying to staunch the blood that welled from a terrible wound under her left breast. A surgeon came and declared that Miss Pickens had no longer than two hours to live. We will not paint the general despair.

When the wounded girl recovered her consciousness, she asked to know her fate, and when they hesitated to tell her—"Andrew," she said, "I beg you tell me the truth. If I must die, I can die worthy of you." The young soldier's tears were his answer, and Miss Anna, summoning all her strength, attempted to smile. Nothing could be more heart-rending than to see the agony of this brave girl, struggling in the embrace of death and against a terrible mortal pang. Gov. Pickens, whose courage is known, was almost without consciousness, and Mrs. Pickens looked upon her child with the dry and haggard eye of one whose reasons totter.

Lieut. de Rochelle was the first to speak. "Anna," he cried, "I will die soon, too, but I would have you die my wife. There is yet time to unite us."

The young girl did not reply; she was too weak. A slight flush rose for an instant to her pale cheeks; it could be seen that joy and pain were struggling in her spirit for the mastery. Lying upon a sofa, her bridal dress all stained with blood, her hair disheveled, she had never been more beautiful. Helpless as she was, Lieut. de Rochelle took her hand and requested the Rev. Mr. Dickinson to proceed with the ceremony. When it was time for the dying girl to say yes, her lips parted several times, but she could not articulate. At last the word was spoken, and a slight foam rested upon her lips. The dying agony was near. The minister sobbed as he proceeded with the ceremony. An hour afterward all was over and the bridal chamber was the chamber of death. Lieut. de Rochelle has sworn to perish in battle against the Yankees, and we are sure that he will keep his oath. He has now a double motive to hate them and his own existence.—*Charleston Mercury.*

N. P. WILLIS.

The New York Sunday Times thus sketches Nathaniel P. Willis:

Alas, dear Willis! that the rose should lose its perfume and that poets should fade. Can it be that the rheumatic, shattered, decayed individual that we see on Broadway, is the gay, dashing gallant of days gone by? Sad sight is it indeed! sad as are the withered rose-leaves that flutter in the morning wind. A face, never large, but rosy and gladsome, is now pinched, wrinkled and saddened. The locks that once curled so much to his own satisfaction, and the distraction of all the boarding-school girls of the country, are now sprinkled with gray, and hang as forlorn as an old maid's. The eyes that once spoke like his tongue, in poetry and love, have now sunk away in their sockets, and require spectacles to assist him in his ordinary avocations. He has small, delicate hands, which he nurses, softens, and bleaches, and exhibits to the envy of men and the admiration of the fair sex. He dresses in some odd suit, seemingly, and the better to attract attention, wraps up his neck with a jaunty scarf, taking all the care as to folding and hanging of the ends, that is common to fastidious ladies. He walks with a careful, measured tread, as if picking his way among eggs; the real reason for which being that he is rather unsettled on his rheumatic legs. Alas, dear Willis! we say again. We remember thee, bearded, befringed and perfumed, strutting like a peacock, and admired like one. We see thee gaunt, consumptive, rheumatic, seedy, rudely jostled, and almost tumbled over, in the crowds that know thee not. We read thy poetic interweavings, as fresh and fragrant as when penned, and we are saddened to think that thy beauty and glory are dead.

GEN. ROBERT E. LEE.

In the course of a very interesting article on the "Great Battle Fields" of Virginia, the *Sentinel* takes occasion to pay the following tribute to the beloved chief who has led our armies through nearly all the scenes that have been enacted on the soil of our State.

On the 31st of May, 1862, General Johnston was disabled by a rifle shot on the battle field of Seven Pines. The next day—just two years ago—General Lee took command. Two years! How long they seem to have been. For these two years General Lee has led the greatest army of Northern Virginia. No man can know until the records are recovered, with what disproportionate means he has accomplished his great achievements. He has had no controversies with his government. He has indulged in no murmurs. "Do the best you can for me—I will do the best I can, with what you give me"—this has been the sentiment upon which he has acted. All through the great battles of the Chickahominy in 1862, the great battles of the Second Manassas, the capture of Harper's Ferry, the battles of South Mountain and Sharpsburg, the great battles of Fredericksburg and of Chancellorsville, the Pennsylvania campaign, down to the mighty engagements yet uncompleted with General Grant, this unassuming patriot and glorious leader has fought on, labored on, with unswerving and untiring zeal, for his country and her cause. Even now he is in the perils of the battle, watching over his men like a father, and leading them like a hero. Is there a heart in the whole Confederacy that is not sending its aspirations to Heaven, not only for continued victory on his arms, but for his own personal safety and happiness? Not one.

GOVERNOR VANCE.

Remarks made by Mr. Shepherd, of Cumberland and Harnett, on the resolutions of compliment to Gov. Vance, and the amendment of Mr. Cobb to include President Davis.

Mr. Speaker, I may say without any affectation, that the course of this debate has given to my mind a feeling of sad regret. I had hoped that the question before the House could have been disposed of without any development of political bias, or even the slightest phase of prejudice, without excitement, and without a suggestion which might disturb our equanimity and mislead or confuse our judgments. While I approve all that is said in the amendment of the gentleman from Edgecombe, yet as a matter of taste I would not have offered it myself in this connection, but would have preferred to see a direct vote on the resolutions of the Senate. Controversy now, if it run into mere political issues—which may be passed by as things of other days—can accomplish nothing for us that is good. Our distractions, our troubles in the present are large enough. To the great and terrible struggle before us—the cause of independence—to the comfort and support of our brave and heroic men, now suffering so much for the sake of their country in the field, must our highest efforts and best energies be directed. Whenever we cannot agree, we must act in a spirit of accommodation, and for the sake of the State must abstain from conflict over the political contests of the past—where crimination moves the pride and the sensitive spirit of members to the exhibition of deep and strong feeling—let us resist the dangers that may result and carefully nourish that charity which "hoped all things, endured all things." Let no bitterness rule us in this hour, and while we differ, and may well differ, in other matters of public concern, we must make the needed sacrifice of prejudice or of party pride, if such there be, to add a nobler impulse and direction to our aims—and strike together for the honor of our State.

For my own part, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to vote for the Senate resolutions cheerfully, with or without the amendment. In uttering this purpose towards Governor Vance, I shall not vote for him under protest. I will not subject him to the discredit and humiliation of being adopted as a choice of evils. I repudiate such a thought altogether. I declare earnestly and deliberately, that he has my support because I feel that in this juncture of our affairs, the honor of the State is bound up in his election. I appreciate his patriotic spirit, his fidelity, his energy of action, and the impulses which govern him in these troublous times. I feel the assurance that every pulsation of his heart—his highest wish—is for the triumph of our arms and the independence of the Confederate States; and so feeling, I shall give to him my full support. From this purpose nothing shall move me, unless I am called upon to turn away from the support of the President. To this alternative I need not look—of this collision I need not feel a dread—for the glory of the Confederacy is that of North Carolina—one honor, one safety and deliverance, a common independence won by the best blood of the country, shall be the lot, the inheritance of us all.

FEDERAL OUTRAGES AT ROME.

We learn, says the *Macon Telegraph*, that the Federals deliberately murdered three prominent citizens of Rome, viz: E. T. Harden, postmaster of the city, Mr. Wise, a wealthy merchant, and Mr. Ward, an old gentleman, agent of the steamboat line upon the Coosa. Worse still, they were guilty of most horrible outrages upon respectable ladies. They gutted houses indiscriminately—destroyed furniture, plundered and stole, and kept up a carnival of license and spoliation during their stay in the place, and finally are reported to have burnt all the finest houses in the town.

GERMAN BOOKS.—An exchange has the following remarks on the peculiarities of the German language and literature:

We often have to express our admiration of what is German. We may take this occasion to say a word upon the great German fault—excess. No nation in the world contains so many adepts in the art of carrying the thing too far. Their very language is an instance. A friend of ours maintains that it has seven deadly sins, as follows: 1. Too many volumes in the language. 2. Too many sentences in a volume. 3. Too many words in a sentence. 4. Too many syllables in a word. 5. Too many letters in a syllable. 6. Too many strokes in a letter. 7. Too much black in a stroke.

DAILY PRAYER MEETING!

THE CAUSE AND THE CRISIS DEMAND IT.

A PRAYER MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE Methodist Church, in this City, Daily, at 5 o'clock, P. M.

All Christians and the public are respectfully invited. Come promptly. Don't wait for the bell—no bell will be rung. Raleigh, N. C., May 5th, 1864. 12—11.

WAYSIDE HOSPITAL.

GREENSBORO, N. C., May 2d, 1864. BY ORDERS FROM DR. EDWARD WARREN, Surgeon General for the State of North Carolina, I have opened a WAYSIDE HOSPITAL in the town of Greensboro, N. C., where all Sick and Wounded Soldiers traveling can find a resting place.

J. L. NEAGLE, Asst. Surg. in charge.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE.

RALEIGH, N. C., APRIL 27, 1864.

I PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH, IN THE CITY OF

Raleigh, a manufactory for

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

The object of this enterprise is to supply these useful articles to all soldiers from this State, who have been, or may be, so maimed in the service as to require them.

Privates and non-commissioned officers will be furnished gratuitously. Commissioned officers will be charged the actual cost.

Disabled soldiers are requested to correspond with the undersigned, giving name, regiment, rank, locality of amputation, and the precise measurement of the remaining member.

I wish to employ a number of competent mechanics for the above named purpose. All such are invited to communicate immediately with this office.

EDWARD WARREN, Surgeon General North Carolina.

All papers in the State are requested to copy for one month, and send bill to this office.

TO PHYSICIANS.

MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,

GENERAL HOSPITALS, N. C.

RALEIGH, May 28th, 1864.

THE SERVICES OF ADDITIONAL MEDICAL MEN are required in Virginia, and I am instructed to make contracts with those who are willing to go there.

P. E. HINES, Surgeon, Medical Director.

CANE MILLS! CANE MILLS!

WE ARE NOW PREPARED TO RECEIVE ORDERS for Cane Mills, Vertical or Horizontal, single or double geared.

Persons in want would do well to apply at once, as the demand is pressing.

SHAY, WILLIAMSON & CO., North State Iron Works, 37—36.

Raleigh, June 8, 1864.

THE DAILY CONSERVATIVE.

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RALEIGH, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1864.

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Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, Vice President, salary \$8,000.

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Private Secretary to President—Barton N Harrison, of Miss.

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Willie J. Palmer, A. M., is Principal of the N. C. Institution for the Deaf Dumb and the Blind, at Raleigh.

Dr. Edward C. Fisher is Superintendent of the Insane Asylum.

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